

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claim 4.

Please amend claims 1-3, 5-7, 10, 12, and 13 as follows:

Sub B1
1. (Amended) An implant for implantation in a human body comprising [at least] an outer shell of a resorbable material ~~and an inner fluid core~~, the implant being formed to fit the shape and size of a cavity in the human body, the implant being installed for supporting tissue surrounding the cavity [upon implantation] and allowing [for] in-growth of fibrous tissue into and replacing [at least] the outer shell.

A1
2. (Amended) The implant of claim 1, wherein the [entire implant is formed of the] outer shell further comprises a non-resorbable material.

3. (Amended) The implant of claim 1, wherein the [resorbable material] outer shell is elastically compressible.

4
5. (Amended) The implant of claim 1, wherein the [further comprising a] core [provided inside and] is surrounded completely by the [resorbable material] outer shell.

Sub B2
A2
6. (Amended) The implant of claim [4] 1, wherein the core [is filled with] comprises autologous material.

6
7. (Amended) The implant of claim 1, further comprising at least one of [wherein the implant is capable of carrying other substances such as] radiation material, antibiotics, chemotherapies, cancer therapies, hemostatic material, hormone therapies, and radiographic markers.

Sub B3
10. (Amended) A method for replacing excised human breast tissue with an implant comprising the steps of:

forming a cavity having surrounding tissue within a breast;

A3
forming the implant [having at least an outer shell made of] with a resorbable material and sizing the implant to occupy the cavity; and

implanting the implant in the cavity [so as to replace the excised tissue], the [material] implant supporting the surrounding tissue [upon implantation] and allowing for in-growth of fibrous tissue into and replacing the resorbable material.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the [resorbable material] implant is elastically compressible, and the step of implanting includes [the step of] compressing the [resorbable material] implant, accessing the cavity with a cannula, and installing the compressed implant through the cannula and into the cavity.

C4
13. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the resorbable material is formed from a self-expanding foam, and the step of implanting is performed by injection of the self-expanding foam into the cavity.

Please add new claims 16-24 as follows:

Sub B4
16. The implant of claim 1, wherein the fluid is a saline solution.

17. The implant of claim 1, further comprising an inner shell surrounding the inner core, and a supply of fluid disposed between the inner shell and the outer shell.

18. An implant for implantation in a human body comprising an outer shell of a resorbable material, the implant being formed to fit the shape and size of a cavity in the human body, the implant supporting tissue surrounding the cavity upon implantation and allowing for in-growth of fibrous tissue into and replacing the outer shell, and a core provided inside and surrounded by the

outer shell and containing autologous material.

B4
19. The implant of claim 18, wherein the core is at least partially enclosed by a nonabsorbable material.

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20. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of implanting the implant in the cavity comprises expanding the implant within the cavity.

Sub \$5
21. A breast implant comprising a self-expanding matrix of biocompatible material, the matrix having a porous structure for supporting surrounding tissue of a breast and providing a framework for the in-growth of fibrous tissue into the matrix.

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22. The breast implant of claim 21, wherein the biocompatible material is resorbable.

19/ 17
23. The breast implant of claim 21, wherein the self-expanding matrix comprises a foam.

20/ 17
24. The breast implant of claim 21, wherein the self-expanding matrix comprises a resilient framework for implantation by compressing the matrix into a smaller volume, the matrix expanding resiliently within the breast.

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 were pending. Claim 4 has been canceled. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10, 12, and 13 have been amended. Claims 16-24 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-3 and 5-24 presently are pending.

The Examiner has indicated that the title was not descriptive. The title has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to Fig. 3 of the drawings. Applicants propose to amend Fig. 3 as shown in red on the attached copy of the drawing.

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

Claim 7 has been amended to address the Examiner's § 112 concerns.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 10, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,626,611 to Liu et al. Claims 3, 8, 9, 12, 14, and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu et al. Claims 4 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,869,080 to McGregor et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The present invention as recited in amended claim 1 is an implant for implantation in a human body comprising an outer shell of a resorbable material and an inner fluid core. The implant is formed to fit the shape and size of a cavity in the human body. The implant is installed for supporting tissue surrounding the cavity, and allowing in-growth of fibrous tissue into and replacing the outer shell.

In contrast to the present invention as recited in amended claim 1, Liu et al. discloses filaments and sheets composed of coextruded layers of bioabsorbable materials. Liu et al. does not teach or suggest an implant having an outer shell of a bioabsorbable material and an inner fluid core.

McGregor et al. does not cure the deficiencies of Liu et al. McGregor et al. discloses a collagen sponge formed by freeze-drying. McGregor et al. does not teach or suggest an implant comprising an outer shell of a resorbable material and an inner fluid core.

The cited prior art, taken alone or in combination, does not anticipate or render obvious the present invention as recited in amended claim 1. Claim 1, and its dependent claims 2, 3, 5-9, 16, and 17 respectfully are submitted as being patentable over the cited prior art.

The present invention as recited in amended claim 10 is a method for replacing excised human breast tissue. A cavity is formed having surrounding tissue within a breast. The implant is formed with a resorbable material and the implant is sized to occupy the cavity. Implanting the implant in the cavity supports the surrounding tissue and allows for in-growth of fibrous tissue.

In contrast to the present invention as recited in amended claim 10, Liu et al. discloses coextruded filaments and sheets formed into various surgical devices. Liu et al. but does not teach or suggest a method of forming a breast implant of resorbable material and sizing the implant to occupy a cavity formed in the breast as recited in amended claim 10.